

Message Text

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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFDR, EEC, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH PRESS REACTION TO TINDEMANS REPORT

REF: HAGUE 0089

1. DUTCH PRESS COMMENT ON THE TINDEMANS REPORT REFLECTS
PESSIMISM ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF EUROPEAN UNION.

2. INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS DAILY NRC-HANDELSBLAD SAYS THE REPORT,
WHICH SHOULD HAVE A "A SIGNPOST TOWARDS A BETTER EUROPEAN
FUTURE," IS "IN FACT HARDLY MORE THAN DESCRIPTION OF EUROPEAN
STAGNATION, PLUS A CATALOGUE OF MIRACLE REMEDIES AND HOBBY
HORSES AIMED AT GETTING SOME MOVEMENT INTO EUROPEAN EVENTS."
THE PAPER ASKS WHETHER TINDEMANS' PROPOSAL OF A BIGGER ROLE
FOR THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE EEC "DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A
BASIC CHANGE OF THE EXISTING RULES, WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO THE
DEMOCRATIZATION EFFORT AND WILL NOT ACTUALLY DIMINISH THE
ALREADY TOO SMALL ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE
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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT." IT FEELS THAT TINDEMANS' IDEAS CANNOT

BE REGARDED AS SEEKING A STRENGTHENING OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS
AND DEMOCRACY.

3. INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD DESCRIBES IT
AS "JUST ANOTHER GOOD REPORT", ADDING THAT "A SURPRISE IS
HARDLY POSSIBLE. THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER PUT THE EMPHASIS
ON THE ONE HAND ON THE NECESSITY OF A REALLY COMMON MONETARY
AND ECONOMIC POLICY, AND ON THE OTHER ON EUROPE'S FOREIGN
POLICY, ESPECIALLY THE EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER,
BEFORE A JOINT NEGOTIATOR CAN BE CHOSEN, THE NINE COUNTRIES
WILL HAVE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS FOREIGN
COUNTRIES. ANYONE WHO SEES HOW LARGE THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION
ARE, REALIZES THAT EUROPE WILL HAVE TO WAIT A LONG TIME BEFORE
IT CAN SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE."

4. INDEPENDENT LEFT-OF-CENTER DE VOLKSKRANT COMMENTS THAT
REPORT DOESN'T CONTAIN ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND THAT CHANGES
FOR REAL POLITICAL UNION IN 1980 ARE CONSIDERED VERY UNLIKELY
BY AUTHOR HIMSELF. "TWO THINGS SHOULD BE NOTED: FIRST, THAT
TINDEMANS' TASK WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE AND SECOND, THAT HIS
CAUTION AT THE MOMENT SEEMS TO BE ONLY METHOD TO GUARD EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY FROM A COLLAPSE. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS A PREMATURE
BANKRUPTCY STATEMENT WILL AVOID DISRUPTING CONSEQUENCES."

5. INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE DE TELEGRAAF NOTES THAT NOTHING NEW
CAN BE READ IN THE REPORT, WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED. "EUROPEAN
CIRCLES KNOW VERY WELL WHAT REALLY SHOULD BE DONE TO PUT NEW
LIFE INTO STAGNATING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. THE REPORT LACKS A
SURVEY OF BOTTLENECKS AND DIVERGENT OPINIONS WHICH TINDEMANS
MUST HAVE ENCOUNTERED DURING HIS TALKS."

6. INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS DAILY ECONOMISCH DAGBLAD NOTES THAT
THE MAIN ASPECT OF THE REPORT IS ITS SOBERNESS. "TINDEMANS
DOESN'T BUILD ANY CASTLES IN THE AIR. ALSO IMPORTANT IN
TINDEMANS' IDEALISTIC BUT SOBER REPORT IS THAT HE WANTS TO
GIVE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MORE AUTHORITY. THIS IS SELF-EVIDENT
BECAUSE THE COURSE WHICH HE WANTS THE UNION TO TAKE WILL BE
DEMOCRATIC."

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